

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 have been canceled without disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein or prejudice to the Applicant's future right to present claims encompassing the subject matter recited thereby. Claims 24-31 have been added. Accordingly, after entry of this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 24-31 will be pending.

This Amendment is being filed together with a Response to Requirement for Election of Species, wherein Applicant elects Species I, directed to the subject matter depicted in at least Figure 3, for further prosecution. Applicant respectfully submits that new Claims 24-31 read on the embodiment encompassed by Figure 3 (Species I), thereby fulfilling the requirements of the September 17, 2003 Office Action.

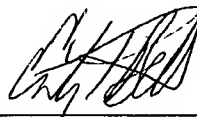
Upon entry of this Amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims that will be pending in this application are directed to a single species, thereby mooted the requirement to elect a single species for prosecution on the merits.

Before examination of this application, please consider the new claims presented above. Early favorable action on the merits of this application is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with this submission that are not otherwise accounted for, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-3975 and refer to Order No. 086162/0283192.

Respectfully submitted,

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